

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SCI-06 OMB-01

ACDA-19 MC-02 RSR-01 /147 W
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R 301645 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0139

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL SALT GENEVA

USMISSION GENEVA

SECDEF

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03760

E. O. 1652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: US/ UK CONSULTATIONS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW)

REF: US NATO 1566

1. AS FOLLOWUP TO NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING (REFTEL) PEREZ (STATE/ INR) AND EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED AT FOREIGN OFFICE AT BRITISH INVITATION FOR DISCUSSION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW). FCO OFFICIALS PRESENT INCLUDED, ROSE, ASST. UNDER SECRETARY, SUERHAYES, HEAD, ARMS CONTROL DEPT.; UNIFORMED REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ALSO ATTENDED. DISCUSSIONS DWELT AT LENGTH ON US INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE OF SOVIET CW CAPABILITIES. PARTIAL AND COMPREHENSIVE PROHIBITION OPTIONS WERE EXAMINED. BRITISH OFFICIALS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE AND TIMELY CONSULTATION ON US PROPOSALS BOTH BILATERALLY AND IN NATO.

2. DISCUSSION OF US PAPER ON WARSAW PACT CAPABILITIES
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AND THREAT SHOWED THAT BRITISH, PRIMARILY MOD REPS, WERE CRITICAL OF US ESTIMATES. BRITISH NOTED THAT US PAPER LEANS TOWAD BEST ASSUMPTIONS. THEY READILY ADMITTED, HOWEVER, TO THE LACK OF ANY CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY. DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT, WHILE USEFUL, WAS INCONCLUSIVE, AND AS ROSE OBSERVED, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT US AND US ASSESSMENTS BE BROUGHT INTO LINE.

3. AT ROSE' S REQUEST, PEREZ REVIEWED RATIONALE FOR PARTIAL MEASURES OPTION, STRESSING THAT NO DECISIONS HAD YET BEEN REACHED ON US POSITION ON CW BAN. BRITISH QUERIED WHETHER DRAFT CONVENTION CALLING FOR BAN ON PRODUCTION ONLY WOULD BE SALEABLE TO NON- ALIGNED AND NATO COUNTRIES. THEY ASSERTED THAT IF PARTIAL MEASURES OPTION WERE PUT FORWARD, MANY WESTERN AND NEUTRAL COUNTRIES WOULD INSIST ON IT BEING PROVED THAT SOVIETS WOULD NOT ACCEPT VERIFICATION BY OTHER THAN NATIONAL MEANS. BRITISH OFFICIALS BELIEVED IT SHOULD BE CONCLUSIVELY DEMONSTRATED (BY ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE A COMPREHENSIVE BAN WITH ADEQUATE VERIFICATION PROVISIONS) WHY COMPREHENSIVE BAN WAS IMPRACTICABLE. WEST HAD NEVER, BRITISH CONTENTED, HAD VERIFICATION ISSUE OUT WITH SOVIETS IN CCD. ONLY AFTER ONE HAD DONE SO AND RUSSIANS HAD RESISTED (AS BRITISH CLEARLY EXPECTED THEY WOULD) SHOULD WEST SETTLE FOR LESS. THAT, ROSE SAID, WAS THE PRESENT BRITISH POSITION. ROSE CONTINUED THAT IF THE US WERE TO DECIDE TO GO FOR A CONVENTION BANNING PRODUCTION ONLY, IT WOULD REPRESENT A MAJOR CHANGE OF POSITION FROM THE TIME WHEN BW AND CW WERE SPLIT, AND WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD THE SOVIET DRAFT CW CONVENTION. PEREZ EMPHASIZED THAT A PARTIAL BAN APPROACH TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE VERIFICATION PROBLEM SINCE IT RECOGNIZES THAT WE COULD NOT ADEUATELY VERIFY THAT STOCKS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN DESTROYED. THE XGDS-1 ANNENBERG

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RISK OF CHEATING ON A PRODUCTION BAN IS OF LESSER CONSEQUENCE SINCE US STOCKPILES WOULD BE RETAINED AS A HEDGE. PEREZ STRESSED THAT IF THE US WENT FOR A PARTIAL MEASURES OPTION, WE WOULD NOT BE ABANDONING A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT AS A LONG TERM GOAL; IT WAS A QUESTION OF GETTING THERE PRUDENTLY IN STEP-BY-STEP FASHION.

4. ROSE ASKED PEREZ FOR ESTIMATE OF WHEN US DECISION WOULD BE REACHED AND WHAT WERE US IDEAS ABOUT CONSULTATION WITH BRITISH AND IN NATO. PEREZ NOTED THAT ROSE HAD SAID HE WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 2, AND SUGGESTED THAT ROSE RAISE THOSE MATTERS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT THAT TIME. ROSE THEN SAID BRITISH WILL NEED ADEQUATE CONSULTATION WITH US. (SUMMERHAYES STRONGLY STRESSED SAME POINT TO US LAST WEEK.) HE HOPED US WOULD NOT FEEL TOO MUCH URGENCY IN PRESSING NATO FOR GREEN LIGHT FOR US PROPOSAL. ROSE CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF A CW BAN ARE GREATER THAN THOSE OF BW CONVENTION. BRITISH THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT CW MUST BE CAREFULLY
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EXAMINED IN MILITARY AS WELL AS ARMS CONTROL CONTEXT.

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